

The Garden Flowers of China. *H. L. Li.* Ronald Press. 1959. xxv+240 pp. \$6.50.

To introduce a subject like *The Garden Flowers of China* to the western world, few are better qualified than this China-born and Harvard-educated taxonomist, Dr. H. L. Li. Li is probably the first Chinese to be credited for completing such an effort in great detail, although E. H. Wilson (1929) long ago pointed out that "China is indeed the mother of gardens; the country to which the gardens of all other lands are so deeply indebted."

Li's treatment is unique and interesting. He has covered a diversified variety of species, such as the gorgeous peony, the 'virtuous' apricot, legendary peach blossom, poetic chrysanthemum, sacred lotus, distinguished orchid, graceful camellia, festival lily, exquisite rose, mysterious Jade flower, as well as many other flowering herbs, shrubs, and trees. One is led to appreciate that most of these well-known garden plants of the Western world have their origin in China. Li has taken advantage of the richness of ancient Chinese art. Many of the species in the book are illustrated by reproductions of artistically beautiful and scientifically precise ancient paintings (as far back as 850 years). This not only compensates his lack of photographs from fresh material but adds a novel and exotic flavor as well. Li is successful in tying folklore, legend, literature, and authentic recorded history into his presentation. The unity of classical Chinese art and science, especially in the field of botanical subjects, is impressive and stimulating. Special merit should be given to the lengthy bibliography, in Chinese with English translation, of ancient Chinese horticultural publications. The list is certainly of great value to many concerned.

There are, nevertheless, pitfalls in the book. The index to Chinese names (pages 229-231), for example, is most disappointing. Since there are other systems besides Wade's of latinizing Chinese characters and there are often several names applied to the same plant in Chinese, simply latinizing a few Chinese plant names is of little significance. It would necessarily take a Chinese student in Botany to recognize, for instance, that both Tu Ch'uan and Yang Chih Chu refer to *Azalea* and that Yulan, Mulan, Hsin I and Mu Pi are all *Magnolia*. Li could have improved his book by compiling a table, listing for each plant the common synonyms in Chinese, and in English if any, their latinized names, and the scientific names. Also, his horticultural center map (fig. 1) would be more meaningful if the distribution of various species had been shown on it.

The art and science of a nation are often intermingled from many angles. A thorough understanding and appreciation of the culture and civilization of a nation can be obtained only with the aid of genuine interpretation, not mere translation. Above all, Li should be congratulated for his contribution in materializing one aspect of Goethe's idea of the belongingness of art and science to the whole world. In general, botanists—orthodox or experimental, horticulturists—gardening or ornamental, artists—descriptive or abstractive, as well as historians—natural or orientalistic would find this book enjoyable reading and worth owning.

P. C. HUANG

Adventures with the Missing Link. *Raymond A. Dart and Dennis Craig.* Harper & Brothers, New York. 1959. xxi+255 pp. \$5.00.

Since the initial report on the controversial "Dart's Child" appeared in 1925, this book has been long anticipated. With commendable thoroughness, Professor Dart and his coworkers have collected and analyzed the primate remains from Taungs—Sterkfontein—Makapansgat excavations in South Africa. To the Australopithecines of this area Dart assigns an "osteodontokeratic" (bone-tooth-horn) culture as an earlier stage in human evolution than that previously described for paleolithic cultures. If, as has been suggested, the key which admits to classification as *human* is, "The Making of Tools after a Definite Pattern," Dr. Dart has here presented ample evidence for the recognition of *Australopithecus* as definite human type. The professional anthropologist has been aware of this type for some years but to the laymen, this volume brings a revealing message in the ever-fascinating search for human origins.

R. A. HEFNER

Bees—their Vision, Chemical Senses, and Language. *Karl von Frisch.* Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y. 1956. 115 pp. \$1.45. Foreword by Donald R. Griffin. Great Seal Books of Cornell Press. Paperbound.

This is a reprint of the 1950 hard cover edition. As soon as it was published, this work of von Frisch became a modern classic. In this edition it can be obtained for about a third of the original cost. It is not only a source of data on controlled experimentation, it is a pleasure to read as a model of sprightly simple exposition. A lifetime of complicated effort is presented in a disarmingly easy manner by this distinguished zoologist. As the foreword states, "appreciation of a scientist's mode of thinking requires more than a bare scratching of phenomena, hypotheses, experiments, and conclusion." The thinking that resulted in Chapter Three is likely to affect your attitude toward experiment and observation.

A. E. WALLER